

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 11-16, 18-22, and 25-27, as shown below; and

Please CANCEL claims 5-6 and 23-24, without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving at a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy;

receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system to the broker, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy; and

sending a response to the service provider indicating deciding whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy.

~~wherein the privacy policy and the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~using the user to define~~wherein the usage policy for the constraints related to the data is defined by the user.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing the broker with a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the providing comprises providing the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar attributes with defined strictness level parameter values~~information elements~~.

5-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~claim 1, further comprising: releasing user data when ~~the each of said~~ at least one strictness level parameter value for the at least one attribute of the privacy policies ~~policy of the service provider matches with the specified~~is less than or equal to the corresponding defined strictness

level parameter value of the corresponding attribute in at least one of the received usage policies policy of the user.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~claim 1, further comprising:
indicating, in the response by the broker, ~~the a~~ strictness level parameter value of the ~~at least one~~an attribute of the usage policies policy of the user to the service provider when the ~~at least one~~corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute of the privacy policies policy of the service provider is greater than the indicated strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy~~does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~claim 1, further comprising:
allowing the user to reduce a strictness level parameter value of an attribute in the usage policy requirement when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute at least one of the privacy policies policy of the service provider is greater than the strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy to be reduced~~does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

attaching an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

11. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a service provider possessing a privacy policy; and

a broker hosting a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy, wherein the broker is configured to check a request from the service provider against the usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy, wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy, and the broker is configured to decide send a response to the service provider indicating whether data associated with the user can be released in response to the request based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy;
wherein the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

12. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

introducing means for introducing to a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy;

receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider to the broker, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

checking means for checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy; and

deciding sending means for deciding sending a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy;

wherein the usage policy specifies a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a request for data associated with a user from a service provider, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy; and

a processor configured to check the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy and to decide send a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy;

wherein the usage policy specifies a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing constraints related to the access of data.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

~~release user data when each of said at least one strictness level parameter value for the at least one attribute privacy policy is less than or equal to the corresponding of the service provider matches with a specified defined strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute in the received usage policy of the user.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

~~indicate, in the response, the a strictness level parameter value of the at least one an attribute of the usage policies policy of the user to the service provider when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute at least one of the privacy policies policy of the service provider is greater than the indicated strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

~~allow the user to reduce a strictness level parameter value of an attribute in the usage policy requirement when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute at least one of the privacy policies policy of the service provider~~

is greater than the strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy to be reduced~~does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.~~

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with a user from a service provider, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

checking means for checking the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy, wherein said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy; and

deciding sending means for sending a response to the service provider indicating deciding whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level

parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy;

~~wherein the usage policy specifies a strictness level, selected from a defined ordered list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable components, the components configured to:

receive a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system, said usage policy defines at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the usage policy;

receive a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level parameter value for at least one attribute in the privacy policy;

check the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes in the privacy policy; and

send a response to the service provider indicating decide whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy,

~~wherein the privacy policy and the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to: permit the user to define the usage policy for the constraints related to the data is defined by the user.

21. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

receive a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

22. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, wherein receiving the predefined set comprises receiving the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar attributes with defined strictness level parameter values information elements.

23-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The medium of ~~claim 23~~ claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

release user data when each of said ~~the~~ at least one strictness level parameter value for the at least one attribute of the privacy policies policy is less than or equal to the corresponding of the service provider matches with the specified defined strictness level parameter value of the at least one of corresponding attribute in the received usage policies policy of the user.

26. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19~~claim 23~~, wherein the components are configured to:

indicate, in the response, the a strictness level parameter value of the at least one an attribute of the usage policies policy of the user to the service provider when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute at least one of the privacy policies policy of the service provider is greater than the indicated strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

27. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19~~claim 23~~, wherein the components are configured to:

allow the user to reduce a strictness level parameter value of an attribute in the usage policy requirement when the corresponding strictness level parameter value of the corresponding attribute at least one of the privacy policies policy of the service provider is greater than the strictness level parameter value of the attribute in the usage policy to

~~be reduced does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.~~

28. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.